

2022 AmeriCorps State Grant Funding Opportunity

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated October 13, 2021

General/Grant Application

Q: If we are currently funded by CV (one year award) are we considered a continuation program? Do we apply for continuation via this RFP or will be emailed instructions?

A: Grants currently funded with a one-year award (as opposed to a three-year grant) are considered to be recompetete applicants in this funding opportunity.

Q: Is there a possibility of the one-year funding happening again or will it definitely be three-year?

A: Applications funded competitively will receive a three-year grant. The intention is to award formula funds on a three-year basis as well.

Q: What happens if our program's application is submitted competitively to AmeriCorps and declined? Is there any opportunity to be considered for Formula funding?

A: If an application passes California Volunteers review and is submitted to the national grant competition but is not selected for funding, that application would be considered for formula funds in rank order, based on the availability of funds. So, applicants submitted to the national competition have two opportunities to be considered for funding.

Q: What is Healthy Futures?

A: Healthy Futures is a national service focus area. Grants in Healthy Futures will provide support for activities that will address the opioid crisis; improve access to primary and preventive health care for communities; increase seniors' ability to remain in their own homes with the same or improved quality of life for as long as possible; and/or increase physical activity and improve nutrition in youth with the purpose of reducing childhood obesity.

Q: Is there a place where we can see the character limits for each section?

A: Character limits are not shown in eGrants. For the Narratives, exceeding the character limits would exceed the page limit as well. The Performance Measure Module is where character limits are most relevant. Be mindful of the information you enter in those fields, and verify that information has not been cutoff before submitting your application.

Q: You covered some of them, but what are the biggest changes to this RFA from last year's?

A: The biggest changes in this RFA are:

- Funding Priorities and their impact on the score
- Additional narrative prompts
- Increased living allowance and cost per MSY
- Process for submitting Additional Documents

Q: Do you know if we will have the ability to ask for increase of MSY in subsequent years 2 and 3? To accommodate future growth?

A: There are usually opportunities to request an expansion in continuation for years 2 and 3, but it is not certain that the request would be approved.

Q: If we are in Year 1 now of competitive grant and will be applying as a Continuation grantee for Year 2, will we receive separate instructions and a different deadline as we have in the past?

A: The Continuation process for competitive programs will commence soon.

Q: Can you remind recompetete programs if their last application will automatically transfer over to a new eGrants record? Or is the new application completely blank?

A: Currently, recompeteting competitive applicants will have their application roll-over in eGrants if they create an application through "Continuation/Renewal". Recompeteting formula grantees will need to create a New application and select the recompeteting program name in the Applicant Info section of the application.

Q: Do you know when you will know more about the special CA state funding that we (reading corps) currently receive to use as match? Will it be available again and what will the process be for those funds?

A: State funds are not being offered as part of this opportunity.

Q: Is the three pages for the logic model separate from the ten pages of narrative?

A: Yes, the 3-page limit for the Logic Model is separate from the 10-page limit for the Application Face Sheet & Narratives.

Q: We do not have program/organization-level data required for the diversity questionnaire. How would you recommend we proceed?

A: Complete the Diversity Questionnaire using the data available to your organization.

Q: Is the site location included in the page count? Is the site location form scored?

A: The proposed service site locations are not included in the page limit and the form is not scored.

Funding Priorities and Selection Criteria

Q: If we have 1200 hour term slots instead of full time members, should we prorate the \$25,500 to \$17,850 in order to receive preference consideration? Or does the preference only apply to programs with full time members?

A: There is no requirement to provide a living allowance for less-than-full-time members, but CV encourages applicants to do so.

Q: Is Cost Effectiveness basically judged by our submitted budget? Or are we also addressing this in narrative?

A: Cost Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy is scored solely on the budget.

Q: Is the diversity questionnaire scored?

A: The Diversity Questionnaire does not factor into California Volunteers' score of your application.

Q: Will retention rates will be considered as part of our performance outcomes?

A: Retention rates are one of many factors considered in the risk assessment of your program. Retention rates themselves are not a competitive consideration.

AmeriCorps Members

Q: What is the maximum living allowance?

A: See the table below:

Term of Service	MSY Equivalence	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Living Allowance
Full Time	1.00	1,700	\$16,502	\$33,004
Three-Quarter Time	.700	1,200	n/a	\$23,103
Half Time	.500	900	n/a	\$16,502
Reduced Half Time	.3809524	675	n/a	\$12,542
Quarter Time	.26455027	450	n/a	\$8,581

Minimum Time	.21164022	300	n/a	\$6,931
Abbreviated Time	.05627705	100	n/a	\$1,980

Budget/Match Requirements

Q: Can the administration the grant (by the legal applicant) be supported by AmeriCorps funds or must the agency support the administrative staff?

A: AmeriCorps grant funds may be used to support program administration but cannot be used to support general organizational expenses. Staffing is an allowable expense that would be included in Section I. A. Personnel Expenses.

Q: Just to clarify, we do NOT need to submit the Excel version of the Budget Worksheet?

A: An Excel version of the Budget Worksheet is required of all Fixed-Amount Grant applicants.

Performance Measures/Evaluation

Q: Can you cover some of the new performance measures related to Covid-19. If you are a mentoring program helping students and as part of that recovering learning lost- does that also apply to the Covid priority and education?

A: There are no specific performance measures explicitly related to COVID-19. If your program provides mentoring services and has had to shift focus to address the learning lost due to the pandemic, you could still use the Education performance measures while being responding to the impacts of COVID-19.

Q: Would you mind clarifying whether ALL members must have mid- and end-of-term performance reviews, or only 1,700-hour members? (We use this information in our Member Dev PMW)

Q: If we were not able to complete the evaluation report due to COVID, can we request for an alternative evaluation approach or is there other suggestions to address this?

A: An Alternative Evaluation Approach may be requested in this case. See the Evaluation Plan Template document for more information.

Q: If an Alternative Evaluation Approach was approved and we have not been able to complete the evaluation due to COVID is there a waiver? How should we document it?

A: If an Alternative Evaluation Approach was previously approved that extended the timing of your evaluation past the application due date, please provide a copy of the approved Alternative Evaluation Approach and an interim report covering what has been completed to date.

Q: Further information/support for evaluation summary/plan? I'm not familiar with this requirement and not sure where to start trying to put together an external evaluation of our program.

A: Evaluation resources can be found on the AmeriCorps website here:
<https://www.americorps.gov/grantees-sponsors/evaluation-resources>.

Q: Where can we find guidance on the first time conducting an RCT for moving up evidence tiers?

A: Evaluation resources can be found on the AmeriCorps website here:
<https://www.americorps.gov/grantees-sponsors/evaluation-resources>.

Q: Can you say a little bit about the fact that Eval Plans will not be scored until funding decisions are made? Does that mean we may be awarded and start operating before we know if our eval plan is approved?

A: Evaluation plans are reviewed and approved by a third party once funding decisions have been made. If your evaluation plan has not been approved, you will have until the end of your first year of operation to have it finalized by AmeriCorps. This may result in a contingency placed on the award, wherein if your evaluation plan is not approved it could impact future funding.